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TAGS: PEPR, EGEN, ETRD, ECON, AS
SUBJECT: (U) GOA'S ACTING PM COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT "NO TRADE BANS ON KOREA"

1. (U) THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED EXECUTION OF OPPOSITION LEADER, KIM DAE JUNG, IN THE ROK, HAS BEEN COMMENTED ON REPEATLY IN THE AUSTRALIA PRESS OVER RECENT MONTHS. MOST RECENTLY, THE MELBOURNE AGE ON JANUARY 7TH COMMENTED THAT TRADE SANCTIONS WERE AMONG THE OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED IF JUNG'S EXECUTION TOOK PLACE. THIS REPORT PROMPTED A STATEMENT ON JANUARY 7TH BY ACTING PM (AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND RESOURCES) A. DOUGLAS ANTHONY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOA UTTERLY DEPLORED THE IMPOSITION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE ON KIM DAE JUNG FOLLOWING A TRIAL IN WHICH POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS APPEARED REGRETTABLY TO HAVE PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE.

2. (U) FOLLOWING THE DEPY. PM'S STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACTU WAS REPORTED IN THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT ALL TRADE BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH KOREA COULD BE HALTED BY TRADE

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UNIONISTS IF SANCTIONS WERE EXECUTED. DOLAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT A TOTAL BAN ON HANDLING GOODS GOING TO OR COMING FROM KOREA WOULD PROVE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE BECAUSE NO SHIPPING COULD AVOID A TOTAL BOYCOTT.

3. (LOU) COMMENT: TRADE BETWEEN THE ROK AND AUSTRALIA IS NOT SUBSTANTIAL IN THE CONTEXT OF AUSTRALIA'S REGIONAL TRADE AMOUNTING IN FINANCIAL YEAR 79-80 TO EXPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS 426.03 MILLION AND IMPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS 138.4 MILLION. HOWEVER, A RECENT (1980) DECLINE IN AUSTRALIAN BEEF EXPORTS TO THE ROK ACCOUNT FOR THE CONSIDERABLE DROP IN AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS (COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF MINERALS AND PRIMARY PRODUCTS) OVER THE 1978-1979 PERIOD. THIS HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE ACTION OF THE ROK TO RESTRICT AUSTRALIAN BEEF IMPORTS TO APPEASE THE DOMESTIC FARM LOBBY AND IS EXPECTED BY THE GOA TO BE SHORT LIVED IN

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VIEW OF THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE CPI IN THE ROK. THUS, THE STRONG STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WILL BE "NO TRADE BANS" ON THE ROK BY THE LEADER OF THE NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY, DOUG ANTHONY, WHO WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME WITH AGRICULTURAL PASTORAL INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA WERE ANY SANCTIONS TO BE IMPOSED IF JUNG IS EXECUTED.

ALSTON

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